



City E-Currents

City E-Currents is a publication of the City of Hopewell.

Issue 15: February 2014

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Mayor's Corner

"Let this be our time in history so that someday we can tell our children and grandchildren that we were there, that we changed the course of history for the better."

~Scott Walker

I believe that this is truly "OUR TIME" in Hopewell. Perhaps, to not necessarily change history, but certainly to change the direction and perception of our city.

It is time that we, as a city, get up and take charge of our future. Refurbishing the Beacon and Marina are good starts but they are only the beginning of a long term process, they are not the end game result. Our future rests on our ability to do things within our borders to make Hopewell better and attract people to Hopewell. It is time to get off the sidelines and get in the game. We must help ourselves to be better, we must



Mike Bujakowski

See MAYOR'S CORNER page 2

City of Hopewell hires new Director of Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility

The City of Hopewell is pleased to announce the hiring of Ms. Jeanie Grandstaff as the new Director of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (HRWTF). Ms. Grandstaff has served as the Acting Director since September 2013 upon promotion of former Director Mark Haley to City Manager.

Ms. Grandstaff brings over 30 years of water and environmental management experience to the position. After a lengthy career with the State Water Control Board (now the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) as an Enforcement Specialist, she was employed by Mays and Valentine law firm as an Environmental Specialist and later by Froehling & Robertson as the Director of Environmental Services.



Jeanie Grandstaff

Ms. Grandstaff has been employed at HRWTF for over 16 years where she served as Technical Services Supervisor and Environmental Manager. Ms. Grandstaff has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond Virginia.

Ms. Grandstaff is past secretary and past president of the Virginia Water

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expect ourselves to do better, if we are to ever get better.

For too many years we have taken the path of least resistance and less risk, all the while falling behind our neighboring localities that pushed forward. By standing still, we went backward.

We are at a place in time where we are beginning to see some progress, signs of revitalization, and a positive undertone though out the city. We must build on this and push forward. This is easier said than done. Some will say stop, wait, delay; these are the actions of potential failure. We must move forward. I understand the risk involved in this course. Not everything will work, there will be missteps and perhaps a few failures, but the city must make the effort if we are to fulfill our potential.

We need to demolish to make way for improvement, to rebuild to make way for progress, to repair what has been neglected. We must change the way we think of ourselves and our city in order to change the way people think of us.

The catalysts of change are the will to change, the want to get better, the desire to do more and expect more. Progress is not cheap, it takes money, it takes time, and it takes great effort. But change can be accomplished by spending wisely, working harder and smarter, and above all TRYING.

We have gotten off the bench and we are back in the game, we need to stay in the game. We will make Hopewell better, we will encourage development where and when possible, we will continue to improve our infrastructure, our schools will be awesome, we will continue to reduce crime, and you will be proud to live here, as will others.

THIS IS OUR TIME. WE MUST TRY!

LEARN WELL, LIVE WELL, WORK WELL,
PLAY WELL, in HOPEWELL
"An Historic Riverfront Community"

RWTF continued from page 1

Environment Association and is currently a member of the Water Environment Federation's House of Delegates. She is also past chair of the Old Dominion Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association.

The hiring of Ms. Grandstaff concludes a national search for a new Regional Director that began in November 2013. She is responsible for the overall management and administration of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility which includes a \$74 million capital improvement program for nutrient removal and a \$9 million operations and maintenance budget.

According to Hopewell City Manager, Mark A. Haley "Jeanie's experience and knowledge of the regulatory issues facing the City and her ability to be a team leader made her the perfect choice for this critical position."

Finance Director receives Certificate of Excellence Award



Mayor Michael C. Bujakowski, Ward # 3, and Vice Mayor, Jasmine Gore, Ward # 4 presenting the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Excellence Award to Jerry Whitaker, Finance Director, City of Hopewell.

Jerry Whitaker, Finance Director receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 20, 2011 during a City Council meeting in December 2013.

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

Plaque of Appreciation presented to the Hopewell Police Department



The Combat Motorcycle Association Chapter 27-3 members stopped by to present the Hopewell Police Department with a plaque of appreciation. It read in part “to the Hopewell Police Department outstanding support for the Veterans Helping Veterans Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center benefit ride on August 27, 2013. Your effort and dedication greatly contributed to the safety and execution of our event.”

Souper Bowl



Employees from the City of Hopewell held a Souper Bowl! Pictured are just a few of the cans that were sent over to the Food Pantry. About four boxes full with three bags full of canned goods were collected. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Monday, January 20, 2014 the City of Hopewell honored Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday and legacy by participating in a Day of Service Project. The Service Project consisted of approximately 20 volunteers raking and bagging leaves at King Court Park. The project was coordinated by Herbert Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs and Steve Benham, Hopewell, Redevelopment & Housing Authority, Executive Director in concert with Dr. John Fahey, Superintendent, Hopewell Public Schools, Iris Walker, Hopewell Public Schools. Brenda Pelham, Hopewell City Council, Ward # 6, Katina Moss, Hopewell High School business teacher and advisor for the school's Interact Club which is the youth division of the Rotary International. Ms. Moss was able to gather 10 students to assist with the clean-up project. A special thanks to Iris Walker, Hopewell School Board Office for purchasing pizza for everyone and Jo Turek, Director, Parks and Recreation and Steve Howard, Manager, Recreation and Parks who provided snacks, water, rakes and bags.



HRHA awarades \$69K Family Self-Sufficiency renewal grant from the Department of HUD

The Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) was awarded renewal grant funding to continue providing case management services to 25 public housing families enrolled in the agency's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. The program began in 2013 after the agency received the award for its 2012 grant application. That award was the first successful grant application in the agency's history.

The FSS program is designed to improve the quality of life for families caught in the cycle of poverty by helping program participants gain access to education, job training and employment. Program coordinators work closely with the individuals to establish monthly goals, provide referral sources and ensure that goals are accomplished. Participants sign a five year contract that requires them to obtain employment and no longer receive welfare assistance at the end of the five year term. If a family's earned income increases while in the program they begin accruing monthly escrow deposits that will be disbursed to them upon completion of the program. Participants may use the escrow funds to pay past debts, start a business, purchase a home or any other purpose they choose.

HRHA currently has three participants that will be graduating from two year colleges this spring. The program currently has four participants earning monthly escrow deposits maintained by the agency.

Satish Ford contracted with the program

in July 2013 and since enrollment has earned her GED. She is the mother of two daughters and wants an opportunity to provide a secure life for her children. Satish credits the FSS Program Coordinator intern, Jennifer Campbell, with helping her overcome an obstacle she had been facing for many years. "The program really helps big time especially the coordinator Jennifer Campbell. Jennifer is always there when I need to talk and to give me references. Without her I wouldn't have been able to accomplish my goal," she said when asked in an interview for the HRHA monthly newsletter how she felt about the program. Satish has just registered in the culinary arts program at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and began her first classes earlier this month.

Public housing residents face many negative stereotypes and stigmas attached to them and this program demonstrates that in many cases the opinions are a misconception. Most of the HRHA residents are single mothers, who if given an opportunity and some assistance can accomplish goals that provide them a better quality of life free of any public assistance. Satish plans to open her own bakery and catering company when she is done with college. "It was a challenge undertaking this program and getting it started, but it has been well worth it. I am very proud of everything we have been able to help the families in the program accomplish in such a short amount of time," said Kathryn Thompson, HRHA Resident Services Manager.

A Tribute to Black History Month

Carter G. Woodson, (1875-1950) noted Black scholar and historian and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). He initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926. For many years the 2nd week of February (chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln) was celebrated by Black people in the United States. In 1976, as part of the nation's Bicentennial, it was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America.

The 8th Annual Black Heritage Committee Program Honoring Black

History Month



Location: Sunlight Elks Lodge # 1558
1505 High Ave
Hopewell, Virginia

Speaker: Major General Larry D. Wyche

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2014
2:00 P.M. (Full Buffet Dinner)

Featuring: The Ft. Lee 392nd Army Band
(Jazz Ensemble) in concert with other
Special Guests performing.

For Ticket Information: Please contact/ RSVP TO:
Herbert Bragg: (804) 503-2228
Donation: \$20.00



Commanding General of Combined
Arms Support Command and Fort Lee

"Honoring Our Past, Building A Future, Faith And Values"

Fall Fun at Woodlawn Learning Center

The morning was alive with the sounds of laughter at Woodlawn Learning Center's annual Fall Festival. "It is always great to see such great parent and community involvement," said the center's Principal Belinda Piercy. "As you can see, the kids were having fun."

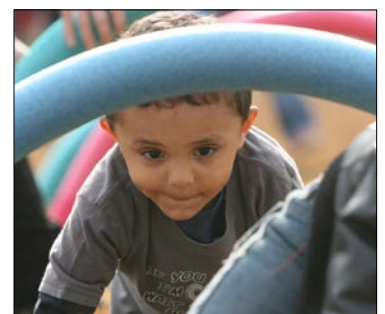
The students were treated to special treats, like cotton candy, as well as activities like obstacle courses, tricycle races and parachute popcorn (with a rubber chicken).

The learning center is home to Hopewell City Public Schools' youngest students who make up the Virginia Pre-School and Head Start Programs.

Pictured above are members of the Delta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Tom Hooker, James Clark, Walter Smith, and Joseph C. McKinney, who helped cook hotdogs for the participants.



These gentlemen are very active volunteers and members of the Delta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, (l-r) Tom Hooker, James Clark, Walter Smith, and Joseph C. McKinney, helped cook hotdogs for the participants. The group also helps by reading to classes each month.



2013 VSBA GREEN SCHOOLS CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

38 School Divisions Certified as “Green School Divisions”

Nine school divisions receive top awards in the 2013 Virginia School Boards Association’s (VSBA) Green Schools Challenge, a friendly competition designed to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce the carbon emissions generated

by both the local school division and the broader community. This is the fifth year the awards were given out.

Nine category winners were selected from 40 entries and were recognized at the VSBA Annual Convention being held in Williamsburg. In addition,

38 school divisions were recognized as being Certified Green School Divisions by implementing new actions and adopting new policies that earn the divisions “green points”. The VSBA Green Schools Challenge was sponsored by Moseley Architects and ABM Building & Energy Solutions.

Green Schools Challenge Winners

Student Population Under 5,000

First Place: Hopewell City Public Schools
Second Place: Buckingham County Public Schools
Third Place: Nelson County Public Schools

Student Population 5,001 – 10,000

First Place: Henry County Public Schools
Second Place: Manassas City Public Schools
Third Place: Fairfax City Public Schools

Student Population 10,001 & Up

First Place: Albemarle County Public Schools
Second Place: Roanoke County Public Schools
Third Place: Virginia Beach City Public Schools

VSBA Certified Green School Divisions

Platinum Certification (175 – 200 “Green Points”)

Albemarle County Public Schools
Arlington County Public Schools
Culpeper County Public Schools
Cumberland County Public Schools
Frederick County Public Schools
Gloucester County Public Schools
Henry County Public Schools
Isle of Wight County Public Schools
Loudoun County Public Schools
Nottoway County Public Schools
Roanoke County Public Schools
Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Gold Certification (150 – 174 “Green Points”)

Augusta County Public Schools
Chesapeake City Public Schools
Fairfax City Public Schools

Manassas City Public Schools
Nelson County Public Schools
Newport News City Public Schools

Silver Certification (125 – 149 “Green Points”)

Alexandria City Public Schools
Buckingham County Public Schools
Fairfax County Public Schools
Goochland County Public Schools
Hopewell City Public Schools
King William County Public Schools
Middlesex County Public Schools
Radford City Public Schools
Salem City Public Schools
Shenandoah County Public Schools
Williamsburg/James City County Public Schools
York County Public Schools

Green Certification (100 – 124 “Green Points”)

Fauquier County Public Schools
Halifax County Public Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
New Kent County Public Schools
Orange County Public Schools
Patrick County Public Schools
Portsmouth City Public Schools
Prince William County Public Schools

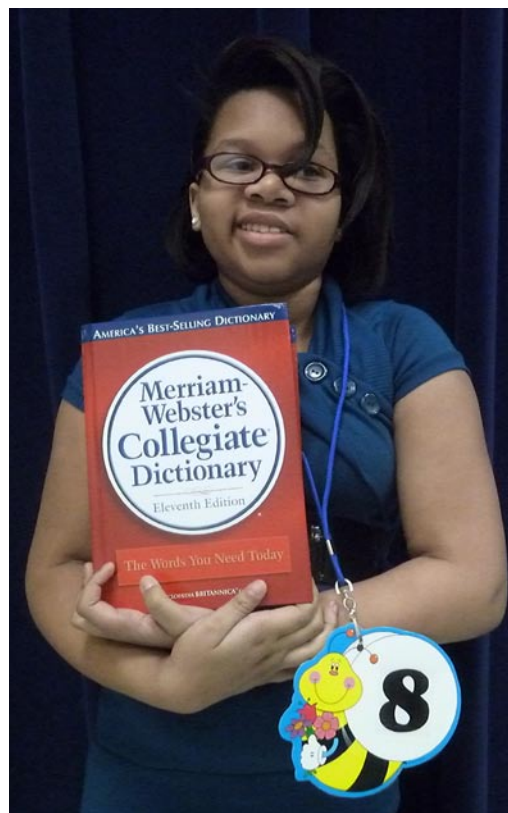
About the Virginia School Boards Association

The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training, and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s educational leaders.

Hopewell City Public Schools Names 2014 Spelling Bee Champs



Above: Mrs. Janice Butterworth, Supervisor of Language Arts and Social Studies who acted as the event's pronouncer with runner up Demarreo Wilson and champion Kyah Yeager.



Right: Kyah with dictionary is our HCPS Spelling Bee Champion

Tuesday morning, Carter G. Woodson Middle School student, Kyah Yeager correctly spelled the word "curriculum" to clinch this year's Hopewell City Public Schools Spelling Bee. Yeager bested fellow seventh grader Demarreo Wilson at the end of six rounds of competition to represent the division in Richmond for the regional competition on, March 8th.

The division-wide event is for elementary and middle school students from second to eighth grade. Below is a list of the rest of this year's school winners and participants. Congratulations one and all.

Averie McClellan	5th Grade Winner	Dupont Elementary
Jennifer Mejia	5th Grade Runner-Up	Dupont Elementary
Cadence Barger	4th Grade Winner	Dupont Elementary – CPO (Gifted)
Winner		
Somchai Pakawan	5th Grade Winner	Dupont Elementary– CPO (Gifted)
Winner		
Jada Hughes	4th Grade Winner	Harry E. James Elementary
Aniya Brock	4th Grade Runner-Up	Harry E. James Elementary
Ahniya White	4th Grade Winner	Patrick Copeland Elementary
James Fouts	2nd Grade Runner-Up	Patrick Copeland Elementary

Adopt-A-Neighbor Outreach Program

The City of Hopewell has implemented an “Adopt-A-Neighbor” program as an outreach service with the intent of:

- Bringing together groups of individuals or an organization with a person needing assistance;
- Developing a volunteer network; and
- Gaining compliance with City Codes to promote a healthier, safer, and visually appealing community.

Benefits of Program

- Citizens are given the opportunity to help their neighbors
- Individual and community safety and health is improved
- Quality of life is enhanced
- Volunteers receive the satisfaction of helping others
- Groups and organizations benefit from a team-building experience
- A sense of community pride is enhanced

Who Qualifies for the Program?

The program targets individuals or households that meet the following criteria:

- Must be a Homeowner; and
- Either Elderly and/or Disabled.

The three (3) additional eligibility criteria:

- **Physical & Mental Capability** – Applicants must demonstrate that a serious medical or mental condition exists either on a permanent basis or as a long-term condition.
- **Financial Capability** – This is determined by the individual's most recent tax return and living expenses. Living expenses may include the following items: mortgage, utilities, food and medical costs.
- **Family Resource Capability** – An individual may qualify if they do not have any family members located within 20 miles of the City who are willing and able to assist the applicant.

Types of Assistance

Typical activities of volunteers would include:

- Yard cleaning such as cutting grass, trimming shrubs, and raking leaves;
- Removing trash and debris from properties; and
- Moving items to the curb for pickup.

How it Works

- Individuals that are in need of assistance can contact the Department of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning or can be referred by a neighbor.
- The individual will fill out an assistance application.
- If the individual qualifies, then they will be referred to a volunteer or volunteer group for assistance.

Calling all Volunteers!

Department of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning is in need of volunteers who are willing to perform tasks such as:

Requirements of Volunteers

- The organization agrees to provide assistance to a homeowner for necessary maintenance, such as yard work, trash removal, etc.
- The adopting organization performs the work needed.
- Materials are to be provided by the homeowner, donated by businesses or community-based organizations and/or the City of Hopewell.

Volunteers are essential to the success of the Adopt-A-Neighbor Outreach Program. If you or your organization is interested in performing such valuable tasks, please contact us at (804) 541-2220.

Contact Us @

**Department of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning
City of Hopewell**

**300 North Main Street, Room 321, Hopewell, Virginia 23860
Telephone: (804) 541-2220 • Fax: (804) 541-2318**

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) also known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 brought about the development of the Local Emergency Planning Committee within each state. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) carries out those responsibilities required pursuant to Public Law 99-499 (“EPCRA”) and related regulations.

These responsibilities include:

- Developing, training, and testing a hazardous substances emergency response plan for the City of Hopewell on an annual basis,
- Developing procedures by which regulated facilities notify the LEPC in accordance with EPCRA,
- Developing procedures for addressing requests from the public under the right-to-know provisions of EPCRA, and
- Giving public notice of committee activities
- Developing annual goals and activities and related special projects

The City of Hopewell Local Emergency Planning Committee consists of representatives from the community, law enforcement, emergency medical services, health care, media, industry, federal and state officials and citizens. If you would be interested in becoming a member or serving as a citizen on this important committee, please contact Ben Ruppert, Coordinator, Emergency Management at (804) 541-2298 or via email at bruppert@hopewellva.gov or you may contact Herbert Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs at (804) 541-2270 or via email at hbragg@hopewellva.gov

RockTenn's Hopewell Mill Installing New Emergency Notification System

Testing to begin in February

RockTenn's Hopewell Mill is honored to have been part of this community since 1922 and we are committed to the safety and well-being of all employees, visitors, vendors and neighbors. As an ongoing demonstration of that commitment, we want to share important information with you about our new audible alert-based emergency notification system or ENS.

The new system, which is very similar to the system Honeywell installed a few years ago, uses a series of audible alerts with different tones to notify mill co-workers and neighbors to certain circumstances at the mill. The most common of these will be weekly tests and drills. However, there are audible alert tones or audible alarms for situations like general emergencies, shelter-in-place and, of course, the all-clear tone.

In addition to the audible alerts, notifications will also be sent out on all mill radio channels and to a large group of mill employees; employees of local industry and the city via email.

The critical equipment components are in place and system installation is in progress. The new ENS system is expected to begin testing in early February.

If you have questions or would like more information, you may pick up a brochure at Hopewell police and fire stations or contact Joe Sadler at 804-541-9631 (office) or 804-543-2883 (cell).

Weekly tests and drills

Monday mornings at 9:30	General alarm and all-clear drills
Monday afternoons at 2	Shelter-in-place and evacuation tests

All drills and tests will be preceded and followed by an announcement stating, "This is only a drill (test)."

Save the date: March 11 is Statewide Tornado Drill

Registration is now open for the March 11 Statewide Tornado Drill. Businesses and organizations, schools and colleges, and families and individuals can practice taking cover from tornadoes by participating in this annual safety exercise, set for 9:45 a.m.

"During the past three years, 67 twisters struck Virginia," said Brett Burdick, acting state coordinator for emergency management. "April 2011 was particularly dangerous when 10 people died and more than 100 were injured. Tornadoes are common in Virginia. In fact, three struck south-east Virginia Jan. 11, so it is essential that everyone knows what to do when a tornado warning is issued."

The annual drill is a joint effort of the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. To start the drill, at approximately 9:45 a.m., a test tornado warning will be sent by the NWS to NOAA Weather Radios. These radios will sound a tone alert and show a message (or flash to indicate a message) to simulate what people will hear or see during an actual tornado warning. The test message then will be broadcast by many local radio and TV stations.

Registration for the Statewide Tornado Drill is not required, but residents are encouraged to sign up to show their support. Learn more about tornado safety, how to hold a drill, and how to register for the drill at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

Here's a look back at tornadoes in Virginia during 2013:

- 5 tornadoes were recorded (4 EF0 and 1 EF1).
- There were no reported injuries.
- Property damage was nearly \$72,000.
- One tornado occurred in April and four struck in June.

During 2012:

- 11 tornadoes were recorded (8 EF0 and 3 EF1).
- There were no deaths, but six people were injured.
- Property damage totaled \$3 million.
- The highest number of tornados occurred in June (6).

During 2011:

- 51 tornadoes hit, the second highest number on record (87 struck in 2004).
- In April, 10 people died and more than 100 were injured.
- Most tornadoes occurred during April, but tornadoes also were recorded in March, May, August, September, October and November.
- In April, 212 homes and 17 businesses were destroyed; more than 1,050 homes and businesses were damaged.
- Nearly every part of Virginia experienced tornadoes, including mountain areas.
- One-third of the tornadoes struck at night when people were asleep.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR CITY COUNCILORS?

Mayor Michael C. Bujakowski	Ward # 3	PH: (804) 731-0513
Vice Mayor Jasmine Gore	Ward # 4	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Christina Luman-Bailey	Ward # 1	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Roosevelt Edwards, Jr.	Ward # 2	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Wayne Walton	Ward # 5	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Brenda S. Pelham	Ward # 6	PH: (804) 720-8619
Councilor Jackie M. Shornak	Ward # 7	PH: (804) 541-2249

CITY DEPARTMENT

City Manager
 City Attorney
 City Clerk
 Comprehensive Services Act
 Economic Development
 Engineering
 Finance
 Fire
 Healthy Families
 Human Resources
 Information Systems
 Intergovernmental & Public Affairs
 Director of Neighborhood
 Assistance & Planning
 Police
 Public Works
 Purchasing
 Real Estate Assessor
 Recreation
 Director of Regional Wastewater
 Treatment Facility
 Risk Management
 Emergency Services
 School Superintendent
 Social Services
 Tourism
 Voter Registrar

DIRECTOR/OFFICER PHONE

Mark Haley	541-2243
David Fratarcangelo	541-2247
Cindy Ames	541-2249
Jamilliah Karriem	541-2470
J. Andrew Hagy	541-2243
Johnnie Butler	541-2319
Jerry Whitaker	541-2306
John Tunstall	541-2288
Bernetta R. Quinn	458-9271
Gail Vance	541-2246
Terry Newton	541-2225
Herbert Bragg	541-2270
Tevya Griffin	541-2220
John Keohane	541-2282
Ed Watson, Jr.	541-2295
April Cone	541-2205
Patrizia Waggoner	541-2234
Jo Turek	541-2304
Jeanie Grandstaff	541-2210
Dave Harless	541-2203
Ben Ruppert	541-2298
Dr. John Fahey	541-6400
Nancy Treanor	541-2330
LuAnn Fortenberry	541-2461
Pam Clark	541-2232

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Master Commissioner of the Revenue	Debra Reason	541-2237
Commonwealth's Attorney	Richard K. Newman	541-2255
Sheriff	Greg Anderson	541-2301
Treasurer	Terri Batton	541-2240
Circuit Court Clerk	Tamara Ward	541-2239

PARTNER AGENCIES

Appomattox Regional Library	Scott Firestine	458-6329
General District Court Clerk	Deborah A. Hatcher	541-2257
Hopewell Health Department	George Verghese	458-1297
Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA)	Steven Benham	541-1458